SAFETY BULLETIN

Make Sure They See You

Communicating with pedestrians and drivers of other vehicles is often the key to accident prevention. Good drivers use the vehicle’s horn, turn signals, lights and emergency flashers to make others aware of their presence and intentions. The proper use of this equipment should become a habit.

To make sure they see you:

- When turning or changing lanes, signal early and continuously so others will not try to pass. Change lanes slowly and smoothly so a driver you did not see can have a chance to honk their horn and/or avoid your vehicle.
- When slowing down, use a light tap on the brake pedal – enough to flash the brake lights – to warn drivers behind you. Use four way flashers for times when you are driving very slow or are stopped.
- When you are about to pass a vehicle, pedestrian or bicyclist, always assume that they do not see you. Get in the habit of tapping the horn lightly; or at night, flashing your lights from low to high beam and back. A blast on the horn can startle a person, but one or two taps could prevent them from moving into your path.
- When you are backing up, tap your horn a couple of times to make sure others are aware of your intentions. This is particularly important when backing from a parking spot where your view is restricted by vehicles on either side. Someone could be ready to move into your path.
- When it is hard to see at dawn and dusk or in rain and snow, turn on your headlights. Clearance lights are not always adequate. If your vehicle does not have daytime running lights, get in the habit of turning on the headlights. In some states you must have your headlights on any time your windshield wipers are on – it is a good habit.

Good drivers develop the habits necessary to make sure others see them and can clearly interpret their intentions.